

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE
YEAR 1943.

To the Urban District Council of Withnell.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure to present to you the Report for the year 1943 upon the health of the Urban District of Withnell. This is an interim Report. It is intended that any items omitted will be dealt with in a report at the termination of the War.

The general health of the population was good. There was no evidence indicating that health was adversely affected by War conditions either in adults or children.

A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The area of the district was 4,190 acres. The population figure at the census of 1931 was 3040.

The Rateable value was £12,507 and a penny rate produced £48.

Vital Statistics.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Live Births.			
Legitimate	46	23	23
Illegitimate	2	2	-
Still Births	-	-	-
Deaths	39	17	22

Death from puerperal causes.

	<u>Deaths.</u>
Puerperal sepsis	Nil
Other puerperal causes	Nil
TOTAL	Nil

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Death of infants under 1 yr.	3	2	1
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	4		
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil		
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil		
Death from Diarrhoea (under 2 yrs.)	1		

B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Acting Medical Officer of Health.

James Robertson, M.B., C.M., D.P.H.

Part-time Officer. Remuneration - £80. per annum.

Sanitary Inspector.

Cyril Leach Gregson, M.I.H.E., M.S.I.A., C.R. San.I.

A part-time officer holding the appointment of Surveyor.

Remuneration: £130 per annum.

No other Public Health Officers held office during the year.

Ambulance facilities.

Arrangements for transport of cases of infectious disease have been made with the Chorley Joint Hospital Board. Transport of non-infectious cases was undertaken by private ambulance or by the ambulance of the hospital or neighbouring Authority in which the

hospital is situated.

C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

The raw upland surface water was supplied by the Liverpool Corporation. The Urban District Council has not control of the gathering grounds and prolonged storage was not provided. Since the establishment of the chlorination plant in 1940 the condition of the water has been satisfactory.

Closest accommodation at the end of 1943.

Number of privy middens	Nil
" " pail closets	254
" " dry ashpits (Excluding middens)	67
" " moveable ashbins	785
" " houses of the water carriage system	603
" " fresh water closets	700
" " waste water closets	41

Public Cleansing.

The collection and disposal of House Refuse was carried out by the Council. The refuse was collected by motor lorry and tipped.

Sanitary Inspections in 1943.

This work was strictly curtailed in 1943. Thirty six premises were visited and twenty nine defects or nuisances discovered. The number of nuisances abated was fifteen. Fifteen informal notices were served during the year.

Swimming Baths.

The Council owns the Public Baths. The Plunge Bath is 75ft. by 25ft. Slipper Baths are also provided. The Baths have been closed for the period of the War.

Schools.

The condition of the schools was generally satisfactory. All schools have now closet accommodation of the fresh water type.

D. HOUSING.

There were no new houses erected in 1943.

E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

Dairies and cowsheds were periodically inspected. The general conditions were satisfactory.

Dairy Farms.

Number of Dairy Farms	19
Number of cowkeepers (including Dairy Farms)	35
Number of inspections during the year.	16
Number of Dairymen or milk purveyors (Other than cowkeepers)	1

Meat and other Foods.

All meat is now coming from the central depot at Blackburn.

Bakehouses.

Six bakehouses exist and were in good condition during the year.



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F. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The agreement with Chorley Joint Hospital Board for the provision of accommodation for cases of Infectious Diseases continued. Under this agreement cases of infectious disease are admitted to the Heath Charnock Hospital at Chorley. The Board has five beds for Small-pox exclusively set apart for its use at the Finnington Hospital near Blackburn, and under the agreement this provision is intended to cover the needs of the Withnell District.

Notifiable Infectious Diseases other than Tuberculosis.

The following table shows the incidence of notifiable infectious diseases in the various age-groups during 1943:-

	Total cases at all ages.	Under one year	Total cases notified											Total cases removed to Hospital
			1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-		
Scarlet														
Fever	7						1	3	2		1		7	
Diphtheria	2								1	1			2	
Measles	46	1	5	4	3	10	21	2						
Whooping														
Cough	27	1	1	2	9	4	9			1				
Acute														
Pneumonia	6				1		1			2		2		
Cerebro-spinal														
Fever	1	1												
Erysipelas	1								1					
Total	90	3	6	6	13	14	32	5	4	4	1	2	9	

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The Urban District Council made arrangements with the local Doctors to continue the immunisation of children against Diphtheria at their Surgeries during 1943. Twenty six children were immunised. The table below shows the number immunised in the various age groups.

Age - years.		Number of children completely immunised.	
Under	2		13
	3		5
	4		1
	5		1
	6		1
	7		2
	8		-
	9		-
	10		2
	11		1
	12		-
	13		-
	14		-

Tuberculosis.

The table below shows the number of new cases of Tuberculosis notified during the year and the deaths which occurred from the disease in the various age-groups:-

AGES.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	RESPIRATORY.		NON -		RESPIRATORY.		NON -	
	RESPIRATORY.		RESPIRATORY.		RESPIRATORY.		RESPIRATORY.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-								
1-								
5-			1					
10-								
15-								
20-	1							
25-	1	1						
35-					1			
45-								
55-								
65 and upwards.								
TOTALS	2	1	1		1			

I thank the Members of the Urban District Council for their interest in matters relative to the health of the District and for their courtesy and help.

JAMES ROBERTSON.

Medical Officer of Health.

